

It has been recognized for many years that the line of demarcation in senile or presenile forms of arterial gangrene is not a safe

THE MOSZKOWICZ TEST.

point at which to amputate. Above the dead zone there is an ischemic area marked by great pallor, which will inevitably lead to sloughing if it be chosen as the point of election in surgical intervention. The test proposed by Moszkowicz of Vienna in 1907, and which has recently been commented upon at length by Matas of New Orleans, marks a distinct advance in our ability to determine just where to amputate; Bergmann, in Lexer's Clinic, Mendelsohn, Konigsberg and Crile have all confirmed the value of this hyperemic test, as it may well be called. The procedure is as follows:

The limb being rendered ischemic by elevation and by the application of an Esmarch bandage in the usual manner to the groin, several turns of the constrictor are made and the arterial blood supply shut off for a period of five to ten minutes. The tourniquet is then quickly loosened and this is followed by the well known hyperemic blush which travels down the limb.

This blush proceeds rapidly until the obstructed territory is approached, where its progress becomes slow. The lowest point reached by the hyperemic blush is the lowest limit of safety for operation. Amputation must be made well within the hyperemic territory.

The value of Moszkowicz' work is due to one important fact which he established, that the hyperemic blush extends to the level of the obstruction in the main artery of the limb. This he determined experimentally by means of injecting colored fluids into the vessels of a cadaver, after tying the main artery at various levels; it was found in all cases that the skin was discolored by the fluid down to the point at which the main artery was tied, but not beyond it. In a recent operation for gangrene of the foot, in the service of Dr. Sherman at the University of California Hospital, this test proved most satisfactory. It was further determined that a thrombus was present in the popliteal at the point to which the hyperemic blush had extended. So far this principle has been applied mainly to determining the line of amputation in cases of gangrene, but Matas has gone a step further by adapting it to the purpose of testing the collateral circulation in cases of aneurism. In his recent article "Testing the Efficiency of the Collateral Circulation" *Annals of Surgery*, January, 1911, he makes this important observation: "In healthy normal limbs, the occlusion of the main artery of a limb does not, necessarily, suppress the hyperemic wave in the distal

parts below the obstruction, as long as the collaterals are pervious and sufficient to carry the blood beyond the level of the obstruction in the main artery."

R. R.

Collier's Weekly has at last begun the publication of a series of articles by Will Irwin, on the newspapers of the United States.

NEWSPAPER INFLUENCE.

The foreshadowing of the first article indicates that the series will be much read and discussed. To anyone who loves to study the interesting problems in the world about him, and particularly the quiet, profound changes that are constantly occurring or in process of development, these articles will be of great interest. The influence of the newspaper, Irwin truthfully points out, was never greater than it is to-day, though the influence of the editorial columns is practically dead. The newspaper has changed its method as a man changes his clothes; the black "Prince Albert" of newspaperdom has been put away and a "natty" suit of business tweeds has taken its place. Newspapers to-day have a great influence through the news that they print—or do not print—and the color which they give to it. But the newspapers are slow to accept what has been forced upon all reputable periodicals except the daily papers—responsibility for advertising. In the end, it will be the advertisers who will force the newspapers to a cleaner policy in this respect; decent advertisers will not patiently continue to have their announcements sandwiched between patent medicine and lost manhood frauds. This changed policy of the daily press in regard to news has had another and a very profound effect; it has educated the public in many ways, and the public now insists that the process be continued. Not so many years ago, hardly a paper in the country would have printed such stories as the connection of Aldrich, maker of tariff schedules, with the rubber trust (one is tempted to write it "robber trust"); as the connection of Sherman with the Indian land frauds. The people are learning their power; the newspapers are powerful, but the people who make the newspapers are still more powerful—and they are waking up to that fact. Advertising is a necessary adjunct to publication, and a very valuable one; it is valuable to the reader and to the buyer. Big advertisers know this and are advertising in big ways. A certain manufacturer of tooth paste is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars advertising the fact that conservation of health is conservation of our greatest national resource; and keeping the teeth clean helps a lot. Read the advertisements in your own JOURNAL; they are all good things; we are responsible; it will pay you and it will pay the advertiser.